GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:907
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017
Theft of Foodgrains
Karunakaran Shri P.;Kumar Dr. Virendra

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the implementation of Public Distribution System, Targeted Public Distribution System and Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been badly affected due to theft of foodgrains, corruption in fair price shops and frequent changes in licence holders of fair price shops and if so, the details thereof along with the remedial measures taken in this regard including cases registered and action taken against the officials involved;
(b) whether it is proposed to introduce the food coupons and smart card system started in some States for preventing diversion of foodgrains and corruption in distribution thereof in other States also and if so, the details thereof and the time by which the some is to be implemented;
(c) whether the Government has received any investigation reports from any State Government inquiring into the modus operandi used to siphon off BPL rations and other subsidies if not, whether the Government has asked any State Government to conduct investigation in this regard; and
(d) whether the Government has concluded that biometric identification and use of scanners to authenticate BPL ration card holders will prevent loss of subsidized food and if so, the manner in which this conclusion was arrived at?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)
(a) to (d): There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in some States/regions in the country. The complaints generally relate to untimely supply of foodgrains, leakage/diversion, inclusion/exclusion errors, bogus/ineligible ration cards being in circulation, diversion/theft of foodgrains, irregular functioning of Fair Price Shop(FPS), beneficiaries not getting their entitled quota of foodgrains and allotment of fair price shops in an arbitrary manner, etc. A statement indicating State-wise number of complaints on Targeted Public Distribution System [TPDS] received from 2013 to 2016 is at Annexure.
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...2...
As and when shortcomings/complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, they are sent to State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action.
Under TPDS (Control) Order, 2015, State/UT Governments are required to issue ration card whether paper based or smart card for distribution of essential commodities under Public Distribution scheme or schemes maintained in NFSA. The department has endorsed the Aadhaar based biometric authentication model through e PoS devices installed at the Fair Price Shops.
To prevent the violation of provisions of TPDS[Control] Order, 2015 and NFSA, 2013, the Department of Food & Public Distribution is implementing a Plan Scheme on 'End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS Operations' under 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) on cost sharing basis with the States/UTs. The Scheme comprises of activities namely, digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other databases, computerisation of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievance redressal mechanisms and installation of e PoS devices at Fair Price Shops and issuance of foodgrains through biometric authentication. Besides above, all States/UTs have also been requested to seed the Aadhaar numbers in Ration Card database. The scheme will enable removal of bogus/ineligible ration cards and better targeting of food subsidy, facilitate availability of foodgrains to intended beneficiaries at Fair Price Shops (FPS), check leakages and diversions etc. As on 24.01.2017, 100% digitization of ration cards and 73% seeding of Aadhaar has been achieved and 1.78 lakh e PoS are currently operating at Fair Price Shops.
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ANNEXURE
ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 907 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2017 IN THE LOK SABHA
STATEMENT: COMPLAINTS ON TPDS RECEIVED IN THE DEPARTMENT FROM INDIVIDUALS, ORGANISATIONS & THROUGH MEDIA REPORTS ETC FROM 2013 TO 2016.
S. No.
State/UT
2013
2014
2015
2016
1
Andhra Pradesh
3
4
8
5

2
Arunachal Pradesh
-
1
1
-
3
Assam
-
5
34
32
4
Bihar
32
55
106
81
5
Chhattisgarh
3
3
6
9
6
Delhi
37
78
113
91
7
Goa
-
-
-
1
8
Gujarat
4
16
8
12
9
Haryana
11
26
35
34
10
Himachal Pradesh
-
-
4
5
11
J&K
-
-
5
3
12
Jharkhand
8
16
32
29
13
Karnataka
6
6
16

22
14
Kerala
1
1
16
22
15
Madhya Pradesh
17
7
17
24
16
Maharashtra
20
25
48
62
17
Manipur
2
1
6
4
18
Meghalaya
1
2
7
9
19
Mizoram
-
-
-
-
20
Nagaland
-
3
-
2
21
Orissa
3
8
22
43
22
Punjab
6
5
10
7
23
Rajasthan
18
31
33
59
24
Sikkim
0
-
-
-
25
Tamil Nadu
9
7

22
33
26
Telangana
-
-
10
1
27
Tripura
-
-
-
1
28
Uttarakhand
2
8
24
21
29
Uttar Pradesh
92
137
197
461
30
West Bengal
7
11
32
29
31
A&N Island
-
-
-
1
32
Chandigarh
-
3
6
2
33
D& N Haveli
-
1
-
1
34
Puducherry
-
-
-
-
TOTAL
282
460
818
1106
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